

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2018/785**of 29 May 2018****amending Implementing Regulation (EU) No 540/2011 as regards the conditions of approval of the active substance thiamethoxam****(Text with EEA relevance)**

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market and repealing Council Directives 79/117/EEC and 91/414/EEC ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Article 21(3), Article 49(2) and Article 78(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The active substance thiamethoxam was included in Annex I to Council Directive 91/414/EEC ⁽²⁾ by Commission Directive 2007/6/EC ⁽³⁾.
- (2) Active substances included in Annex I to Directive 91/414/EEC are deemed to have been approved under Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 and are listed in Part A of the Annex to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 540/2011 ⁽⁴⁾.
- (3) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 485/2013 ⁽⁵⁾ amended the conditions of approval of the active substance thiamethoxam and required the applicant to provide confirmatory information as regards:
 - (a) the risk to pollinators other than honey bees;
 - (b) the risk to honey bees foraging in nectar or pollen in succeeding crops;
 - (c) the potential uptake via roots to flowering weeds;
 - (d) the risk to honey bees foraging on insect honey dew;
 - (e) the potential guttation exposure and the acute and the long-term risk to colony survival and development, and the risk to bee brood resulting from such exposure;
 - (f) the potential exposure to dust drift following drill and the acute and the long-term risk to colony survival and development, and the risk to bee brood resulting from such exposure;
 - (g) the acute and long term risk to colony survival and development and the risk to bee brood for honeybees from ingestion of contaminated nectar and pollen.
- (4) The applicant submitted additional information concerning bees (i.e. honey bees, bumble bees and solitary bees) to the rapporteur Member State Spain.
- (5) Spain assessed the additional information submitted by the applicant. It submitted its assessment, in the form of an addendum to the draft assessment report, to the other Member States, the Commission and the European Food Safety Authority ('the Authority') on 12 November 2015.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 309, 24.11.2009, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ Council Directive 91/414/EEC of 15 July 1991 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market (OJ L 230, 19.8.1991, p. 1).

⁽³⁾ Commission Directive 2007/6/EC of 14 February 2007 amending Council Directive 91/414/EEC to include metrafenone, *Bacillus subtilis*, spinosad and thiamethoxam as active substances (OJ L 43, 15.2.2007, p. 13).

⁽⁴⁾ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 540/2011 of 25 May 2011 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the list of approved active substances (OJ L 153, 11.6.2011, p. 1).

⁽⁵⁾ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 485/2013 of 24 May 2013 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) No 540/2011, as regards the conditions of approval of the active substances clothianidin, thiamethoxam and imidacloprid, and prohibiting the use and sale of seeds treated with plant protection products containing those active substances (OJ L 139, 25.5.2013, p. 12).

- (6) The Member States, the applicant and the Authority were consulted and asked to provide comments on the assessment of the rapporteur Member State. The Authority published a Technical Report summarising the outcome of this consultation for thiamethoxam on 20 April 2016 ⁽¹⁾.
- (7) As foreseen in recital (16) of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 485/2013, the Commission initiated a review of new scientific information on 11 February 2015 by mandating EFSA to organise an open call for data. EFSA launched an open call for data which ended on 30 September 2015 ⁽²⁾.
- (8) On 13 November 2015, the Commission requested EFSA to provide conclusions concerning an updated risk assessment for bees as regards the use of thiamethoxam applied as a seed treatment or granules by organising a peer review and taking into account the data collected in the framework of the specific open call for data and any other new data from studies, research and monitoring activities that are relevant to the uses under consideration. The Authority presented its conclusion on the peer review of the updated pesticide risk assessment for bees for the active substance thiamethoxam considering the uses as seed treatment and granules on 28 February 2018 ⁽³⁾. The applicant was given the opportunity to comment on this conclusion. The applicant submitted its comments which have been carefully examined.
- (9) The draft assessment report, the addendum, the Technical Report and the conclusion of the Authority were reviewed by the Member States and the Commission within the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed and finalised on 27 April 2018 in the form of a revised addendum to the Commission review report for thiamethoxam.
- (10) The Commission invited the applicant to submit its comments on the revised addendum to the review report for thiamethoxam. The applicant submitted its comments which have been carefully examined.
- (11) Having reviewed the information submitted by the applicant, the Commission has concluded that the further confirmatory information required by Implementing Regulation (EU) No 485/2013 has not been provided, and having also considered the conclusion on the updated risk assessment for bees, the Commission has concluded that further risks to bees cannot be excluded without imposing further restrictions. Bearing in mind the need to ensure a level of safety and protection consistent with the high level of protection of animal health that is sought within the Union, it is appropriate to prohibit all outdoor uses. Therefore, it is appropriate to limit the use of thiamethoxam to permanent greenhouses and to require that the resulting crop stays its entire life cycle within a permanent greenhouse, so that it is not replanted outside.
- (12) The Annex to Implementing Regulation (EU) No 540/2011 should therefore be amended accordingly.
- (13) Taking into account the risks for bees from treated seeds, the placing on the market and the use of seeds treated with plant protection products containing thiamethoxam should be subject to the same restrictions as the use of thiamethoxam. It is therefore appropriate to provide that seeds treated with plant protection products containing thiamethoxam shall not be placed on the market or used, except where the seeds are intended to be used only in permanent greenhouses and the resulting crop stays within a permanent greenhouse during its entire life cycle.
- (14) Member States should be allowed sufficient time to amend or withdraw authorisations for plant protection products containing thiamethoxam.
- (15) For plant protection products containing thiamethoxam, where Member States grant a grace period pursuant to Article 46 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009, that period should, at the latest, expire on 19 December 2018.

⁽¹⁾ EFSA (European Food Safety Authority), 2016. Technical report on the outcome of the consultation with Member States, the applicant and EFSA on the pesticide risk assessment for thiamethoxam in light of confirmatory data. EFSA supporting publication 2016:EN-1020. 27 pp.

⁽²⁾ EFSA (European Food Safety Authority), 2015. Technical report on the open call for new scientific information as regards the risk to bees from the use of the three neonicotinoid pesticide active substances clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam applied as seed treatments and granules in the EU. EFSA supporting publication 2015:EN-903. 8pp.

⁽³⁾ EFSA (European Food Safety Authority), 2018. Conclusions on the peer review of the pesticide risk assessment for bees for the active substance thiamethoxam considering the uses as seed treatments and granules. *EFSA Journal* 2018;16(2):5179, 59 pp.

- (16) The prohibition of placing on the market and use of treated seeds should apply only as of 19 December 2018 in order to allow for a sufficient period of transition.
- (17) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Amendment to Implementing Regulation (EU) No 540/2011

Part A of the Annex to Implementing Regulation (EU) No 540/2011 is amended in accordance with the Annex to this Regulation.

Article 2

Prohibition of the placing on the market and use of treated seeds

Seeds treated with plant protection products containing thiamethoxam shall not be placed on the market or used, except where:

- (a) the seeds are intended to be used only in permanent greenhouses, and
- (b) the resulting crop stays within a permanent greenhouse during its entire life cycle.

Article 3

Transitional measures

Member States shall, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009, where necessary amend or withdraw existing authorisations for plant protection products containing thiamethoxam as active substance by 19 September 2018 at the latest.

Article 4

Grace period

Any grace period granted by Member States in accordance with Article 46 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 shall be as short as possible and shall expire by 19 December 2018 at the latest.

Article 5

Amendment to Implementing Regulation (EU) No 485/2013

As regards seeds which have been treated with plant protection products containing thiamethoxam, Article 2 of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 485/2013 is deleted.

Article 6

Entry into force

This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

However, Article 2 and Article 5 shall apply as of 19 December 2018.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 29 May 2018.

For the Commission
The President
Jean-Claude JUNCKER

ANNEX

The text of the column 'Specific provisions' of row 140, thiamethoxam, of Part A of the Annex to Implementing Regulation (EU) No 540/2011 is replaced by the following:

'PART A

Only uses as insecticide, in permanent greenhouses or for the treatment of seeds intended to be used only in permanent greenhouses, may be authorised. The resulting crop must stay within a permanent greenhouse during its entire life cycle.

PART B

For the implementation of the uniform principles as referred to in Article 29(6) of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009, the conclusions of the review report on thiamethoxam, and in particular Appendices I and II thereof, as finalised in the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health on 14 July 2006 and the conclusions of the revised addendum of the review report on thiamethoxam as finalised in the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed on 27 April 2018 shall be taken into account.

In this overall assessment Member States must pay particular attention to:

- the risk to groundwater;
- the risk to aquatic organisms;
- the risk to bees and bumble bees released for pollination in permanent greenhouses;
- the exposure of bees via the consumption of contaminated water from the permanent greenhouses.

Member States shall ensure that the seed coating shall only be performed in professional seed treatment facilities. Those facilities must apply the best available techniques in order to ensure that the release of dust during application to the seed, storage, and transport can be minimised.

Conditions of use shall include risk mitigation measures, where appropriate.'
